LIFE IN NATURE ON LAKE MICHIGAN

# New Buffalo Times

NEWS $1

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issue 1, volume 85 www.newbuffalotimes.com Thursday, January 1, 2026

New Buffalo alumnus, former teacher debuts children's book **PAGE 3**

DDA approves amending TIF and Development plans **PAGE 4**

Rotarians gift Christmas food, items to area families **PAGE 8**

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## OLD SCHOOL TEAR DOWN FOR HOUSING APPROVED

It appears an old school building in La Porte will be torn down to make way for new housing.

The La Porte Board of Zoning Appeals on Dec. 18 approved plans to demolish the former Washington Elementary School and replace it with 17 homes at Bach and Roosevelt Streets.

Bert Cook, executive director of the La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership, said he believes the homes would be a good match for a neighborhood that hasn't seen new housing construction in decades.

"I do think it looks pretty consistent with what's there by today's standards," he said.

The project received tax credits from the state as incentive to help offset the cost of the work. The hope is to begin construction in the summer.

Resident Susan Antoszewski said her fears about the project include lower property values and new homes not aesthetically pleasing with existing dwellings.

"They'll stick out like a sore thumb. It will not match anything in the neighborhood," she said.

Cook said the homes would be affordable workforce-type housing offered on a rent to own basis.

The plans are expected to be presented to the La Porte City Council for final approval in January. — STAN MADDUX

New Buffalo Times
LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
— SINCE 1942 —

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PUBLICATION NUMBER 377960
CIRCULATION 5,000+ WEEKLY

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# New Buffalo alumnus, former teacher debuts children's book

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

While Marg Putzke's children's book, "Prince Tyler and the Red Dragon," was just published this past October, she said it's a story that has been 20 years in the making.

"This is the story I used to tell my 4-year-old grandson, Tyler," she said.

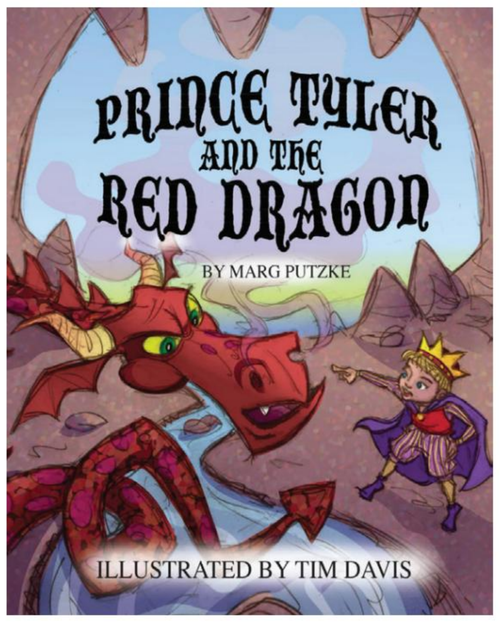
That toddler grandson is now a grown 24-year-old, who just got out of the U.S. Marine Corps.

"He's just kind of enamored of this whole situation and how it grew - it used to be grandma's story," she said.

Putzke had her first public unveiling of her book to young readers at a special Christmas story time at New Buffalo Township Library Monday, Dec. 22.

She said the message behind her story is simple: "antibullying, being nice and finding your hero." The Red Dragon, who lives in a cave at the bottom of a hill, terrifies the people in Prince Tyler's kingdom. When Prince Tyler leaves his castle and descends the hill to confront him, the Red Dragon performs a heroic act. It's then that he grasps the prince's message: "It's much more fun to be nice than it is to be mean all the time."

At the end of her story, Putzke issued a challenge to young readers: "When you go home, you surprise your mom and dad and do one nice thing for them."




**Marg Putzke reads from her book during a special Christmas story time at New Buffalo Township Library**

**Marg Putzke's book, which is available on Amazon**

A former resident of the area, Putzke said she now resides in Vero Beach, Florida. The firstborn of 10, she had several family members who had come to see her reading her book.

While she said it didn't take her long to write the book, she went through quite the process of finding a publishing platform before settling on Amazon.

She said she found the illustrator, Tim Davis, through a friend who's a cartoonist from Disney. While the friend was "over his head" doing the 2017 film, "Coco," he told her how to find an illustrator online.

"I went through tons of portfolios and when I found the dragon - that was my dragon in my book that I loved – I hired him," she said.

Putzke said the book has had "some wonderful success so far."

"Jokingly," she said, she has another book up the pipeline; however, she said that her first experience publishing a book was difficult.

"It was like birthing twins," she said.

A retired teacher and New Buffalo alumnus, she said she taught English and drama in the 1970s at New Buffalo High School. She also taught fifth grade at the former St. Mary of the Lake Catholic School for her first year as a teacher.

Putzke was inspired after seeing one of her former students, Angeline Boulley, read one of her books at Flourish Books and Plants in New Buffalo. Boulley is the author of the New York Times bestseller, "The Firekeeper's Daughter."

"And so, when I was up here this summer and I went for a book signing, she really inspired me to cross the line," Putzke said.

"Prince Tyler and the Red Dragon" can be found on Amazon.

***Know this, any wisdom you may have immediately vanishes when you're angry ...*** — *Dino N. Fatouros*

# Local Government Meetings

## New Buffalo Times

**Democracy Requires Transparency**

**CITY OF NEW BUFFALO**
VANCE PRICE, MAYOR
**CITY COUNCIL**
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJEWSKI, KAREN GEAR, RICH KNOLL, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
**CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS**
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
**NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD**
HOWARD MALES, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, BARBARA ANDERSON
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
**NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
**SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY**
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
**NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY**
Meets at 9AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
**NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD**
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, JENNIFER SUMMERS, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
The Board meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 6PM
**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP**
**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD**
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
**THREE OAKS**
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM
VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
**GRAND BEACH**
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE, ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
**MICHIANA**
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

# DDA approves amending TIF and Development plans

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the New Buffalo Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors approved amending its Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Plan and Development Plan, seeking a 10-year renewal, and hiring a consultant to assist with the amendment, at a special Friday, Dec. 19, meeting.

Board Chair Ben Smock said that the board had created an updated plan around the same time last year, which involved looking at the 2014 one and eliminating some items that had already been completed; however, the plan hasn't been presented to the New Buffalo City Council.

"Based on the city council's comments at the last meeting, we'd like to add some provisions in here, so we can properly address the parking that we agreed upon at our November meeting," Smock said.

After several committee meetings, workshops and formal meetings, the DDA "developed an alternative proposal to the implementation of paid parking," per the New Buffalo City Council's November meeting packet. After being presented at the DDA's Nov. 13 meeting, it was "unanimously recommended to be submitted to the City Council for consideration." The city council had tabled a decision on the recommendation.

In addition to parking, New Buffalo Mayor Vance Price said that it's important that they submit other items that they felt may be necessary to the TIF plan.

Board Vice Chair Robert Kemper said that the normal process would be to hold two public meetings before making a motion to approve the plan and submit it to the council for approval, which could be a three-to-six-month process.

From what he heard from the city council, he said they're still supportive of the parking plan that the DDA submitted; however, he said "this was the hiccup because it wasn't clearly defined in the previous TIF plan to provide that funding."

The city has purchased the equipment to implement the parking plan, with Kemper saying that the hope was to have everything completed by June, so they could proceed with the plan as presented.

Once the TIF plan has been adopted, the "funds would be transferred to the city to cover what we committed to."

City Manager Darwin Watson "felt more comfortable with that" rather than interpreting the current the TIF plan.

"So, he's not opposed to it, he's not trying to slow it down, he's just trying to do it the right way," Kemper said.

Kemper said he was told by Wightman in 2014 that it'd be good to do a 10-year TIF plan because "priorities change."

Once the plan has been approved by the city, it would need to go to the county for approval.

The DDA will do an RFP for a consultant, which would be a DDA expense.

Kemper said that the "idea of doing a year of enforced parking will help inform what the next year will be" in the city.

Smock said that, in the second goal in the original TIF plan, it's stated that the DDA will "work with the city to create and implement a parking master plan."

"We've got a framework to start with, it's just taking it to the finish line," he said.

**After several committee meetings, workshops and formal meetings, the DDA "developed an alternative proposal to the implementation of paid parking," per the New Buffalo City Council's November meeting packet. After being presented at the DDA's Nov. 13 meeting, it was "unanimously recommended to be submitted to the City Council for consideration." The city council had tabled a decision on the recommendation.**

Member Diane Pyshos said the DDA could begin to schedule workshops about details of the parking plan in the first quarter of this year. Smock said in January, he'll send out communications on when the right time would be to meet.

Pyshos said that she hoped the DDA would become involved in the various events that are scheduled to take place in the city for 2026.

Per a press release on Exit One Events' website, six events are slated to take place in the city for 2026: the New Buffalo Home, Garden & BBQ Festival May 16; the Red, White & BBQ Country Music Festival July 3; the Oh Yeah! Music Festival July 4; the Ship & Shore Blues & Soul Festival Aug. 8-9; the iRock Jazz & Wine Festival Sept. 5 and the Beach Glass Brew Fest Oct. 10.

Pyshos said it'd be great if the DDA could be updated on the events. Kemper said he'd recently seen John Moultrie, executive director of Exit One Events, who expressed an interest in working with the DDA.

***Life well spent is long.*** — *Leonardo da Vinci*

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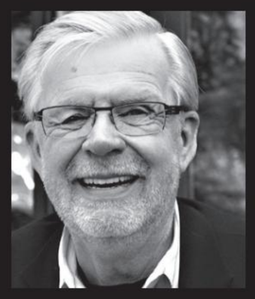
# From the Bleachers

**COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO**



For the three seasons prior to 2025, the Chicago Bears had three consecutive last place finishes.

In 2024, the Bears drafted Caleb Williams and in 2025, they hired Ben Johnson. The 2025 season has one game remaining and the Bears have already clinched first place in their division with 11… or possibly 12 victories.

The three last place seasons prior to this had the Bears win three, seven, and five games, for a total of 15. To say that the team took a giant step forward this year would be a massive understatement.

The Sunday night game against the San Francisco 49ers was a real barn burner.

The Bears and Caleb Williams have come from behind in the fourth quarter seven times this year to win games, tying Payton Manning for the most in National Football League history. Sunday night, they almost made it eight, but came up just a little short.

What a game it was, with the 49er's beating the Bears 42-38, but on the final play of the game, Caleb Williams pass landed a couple of feet short of his intended receiver. Both teams battled valiantly and you couldn't have asked for a more even or harder fought contest.

Congratulations to the 49er's and I wish them well when they take on the Seattle Seahawks for the conference championship next week.

The Bears will be opposing the Detroit Lions and depending on the outcome, they will meet the Packers or the Rams in the opening round of the playoffs.

I really don't like to be the guy who complains about officials or announcers. I'm aware that I'm a fan, so my opinions come with some prejudice, but I just have to complain, or at least wonder, about the color announcer for the game, Cris Collinsworth.

Chris seems to be a nice, knowledgeable person who played the game and knows a lot about it. He pointed out how great a coach, running back and quarterback the 49er's had many times throughout the game, and I don't remember if he ever criticized any of them. He also pointed out the injuries they had.

I agree with every one of those points. They are all veteran professionals, among the best in the game, and I had no problem with his insights. When it came to the Bears though, about equal praise and criticism seemed to take over. He acknowledged the Bears quarterback when he did something well, but kind of dumped on him when he fell short. The same with Colston Loveland, and he barely mentioned the Bears coaching staff.

The Bears quarterback had a better statistical game than the 49ers, the Bears tight end is a rookie just recently getting involved heavily in the game plan, and their terrific coach is just a rookie.

Mr. Collinsworth, the game went down to the final play. Please try to be more even handed.

John F. Kennedy said, "Let us not seek the Republican answer nor the Democratic answer but the right answer."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

***Behind every beautiful thing, there's some kind of pain.*** — *Bob Dylan*

Rotarians distribute food in back of Harding's

Rotarians and volunteers stand in front of food donations in back of Harding's Friendly Market in Three Oaks

Rotarians distribute food in vehicles in back of Harding's

# Rotarians gift Christmas food, items to area families

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

As was tradition, several area families received a special Christmas gift of food, blankets and other necessities during The Rotary Club of Harbor Country annual end of the year food donation, which took place this year at the back of Harding's Friendly Market in Three Oaks Saturday, Dec. 27.

Rotarian Deborah Hall-Kayler, who handles food distribution, said that there were around 29 families "in need of a little extra" from the New Buffalo and River Valley school districts.

The Rotary Club's donations were made possible through partnership with The Pokagon Fund, The New Buffalo Lions Club, Driers and other individual donations of items from Rotary Members such as blankets made by Rita Watson; table runners by Sally Ernst; toothpaste Darlene Heemstra and fudge from Jackie's Café in New Buffalo.

**The Rotary Club's donations were made possible through partnership with The Pokagon Fund, The New Buffalo Lions Club, Driers and other individual donations of items from Rotary Members such as blankets made by Rita Watson; table runners by Sally Ernst; toothpaste Darlene Heemstra and fudge from Jackie's Café in New Buffalo.**

She added that this is the fourth distribution that the Rotary has done this year.

Christmas donations started in 2011, before there officially was a Harbor Country Rotary Club in 2012.

"That was out of a member's garage, but it's morphed into this," Hall said.

She added that Harding's has always been helpful, with Bo Johnson putting together all the individual donations on his own time.

Member Rita Watson said blankets are made throughout the year at the New Buffalo Yacht Club. Last year, 75 blankets were given to residents of Westwood Nursing Home in Bridgman, and a church took 50 that were donated during a flood in Tennessee. Watson added that probably 500 were donated to Ronald McDonald House in South Bend. In addition to blankets, little baby jackets for premature babies, which open in the front, are made. Blankets have also been donated to cats and dogs at the Michiana Humane Society and firefighters and paramedics.

"Over the years, we probably donated, between the Yacht Club and Rotary, like 5,000," Watson said.

Watson said plans are for students in the New Buffalo and River Valley school districts to also pitch in with blanket-making.

Rotarian Woodie Bennett said that they're hoping to engage more youth in Rotary. Her husband, William, is starting to work with students' principals in the high schools to get students involved in activities "along the lines of entrepreneurship and getting involved with the community."

"We're hoping to have those kids come and help us and work with us and to have them take a role in a lot of our work," she said.

She said one member, Kyle Kenyon, who serves as district executive for Scouting America LaSalle Council that serves eight counties across northern Indiana and southwest lower Michigan, will be helping engage the youth.

Bennett said The Rotary Club of Harbor Country engages with the community with several events throughout the year, including working with high school students and promoting reading and literacy in elementary schools and its large mum sale in Three Oaks every fall. They also do a collaborate with the Village of Three Oaks on a Village Forests Program, during which they aid residents in acquiring trees for their "tree lawns" by paying for them in full and delivering them to their homes.

More on The Rotary Club of Harbor Country can be found at www.harborcountryrotary.org.

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

**NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION – VILLAGE OF MICHIANA, MICHIGAN**

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE VILLAGE OF MICHIANA, MICHIGAN

PLEAE TAKE NOTICE that the Michiana Village Council has adopted the following ordinances, with summaries provided below:

2013-01 – Amendment to Ordinance 2010-15 to regulate the use of water by the property owners of Michiana, Michigan and Michiana Shores, Indiana payment for same and penalties for failure to conform or comply, adopted 4/12/2013.

2013-02 – Amendment to Ordinance 2007-02 to establish water commissioners and terms of office. Section 1.b of Ordinance 2007-02 to be deleted and the following is inserted in its place and stead: B. There shall be three Water Commissioners comprising the Water Authority, including the department head for the Village Department of Public Works, Village President and a person nominated by the Village President and confirmed by a majority vote of the Council adopted on9/20/2013.

2013-03 – Amendment of Chapter 7 - Section 7.1, 7.2 ,7.3, and 7.4 this section has to do with nonconforming lots uses and structures, adopted 6/14/2013.
2013-04 – Ordinance to comply with the Michigan Building Codes as a Uniform code of construction within the state of Michigan, adopted 4/2013.

2014-01 – Ordinance to establishing a registration permit for all contractors plus businesses and persons conducting landscaping, building maintenance and other forms of property maintenance or repair business in the Villag of Michiana, Michigan, adopted 10/10/2014.

2015-02 – Ordinance regulating the use of Streets and Right-of-Ways within the Village of Michiana adopted 6/20/2015.

2015-03 – Ordinance regarding municipal civil infractions such as, Authorized Village Official, Bureau, Municipal Civil Infraction, Municipal Civil Action, Municipal Civil Infraction Citation, and Municipal Civil Infraction Violation Notice, adopted 7/11/2015.

2015-04 – Ordinance to adopt by reference the 2012 International Property Maintenance Coe and to provide certain modifications therein and its application to the Village of Michiana adopted 7/11/2015.

2015-05 – Ordinance rules for the regulation and use of golf carts in the Village. This ordinance adopts the Michigan Vehicle Code Act 300 of 1949 which is attached and a copy of that will be maintained on the Village Web site with addition of these provisions, adopted 11/13/2015.

2016-01 – Ordinance adopting a codification and revision of the ordinances of the Villag e of Michiana, County of Berrien, State of Michigan; providing for the maintenance of said code; repealing and saving from repeal certain ordinances not included therein; establishing a penalty for altering or tampering with the code; and making certain changes in previously adopted ordinances, adopted 3/18/2016.

2016-02 – Ordinance granting to SEMCO Energy Gas Company, a division of SEMCO Energy, Inc a Michigan corporation, its successors and assigns, the right, power and authority to lay, maintain and operate gas mains, pipes and services on. Along, across and under the highways, streets, alleys, bridges, waterways and other public places and to conduct a local gas business in the Village of Michiana, location in Berrien County, Michigan, for period of thirty years, adopted 2/12/16.

2016-03 – Ordinance to restrict the hours of construction, alteration demolition and repair activities conducted in the Village of Michiana for the good of the public health, safety and please of Village residents, adopted 6/10/2016.

2016-04 – Ordinance to define the Public Right-of -Way (also known as an easement area) to restrict the placement of manmade objects material in the Public Right-of Way, adopted 10/14/2016.

Complete copy of the ordinance can be found on the Village website; michianavillage.org or by contacting the Village Clerk at aheywood@micianavillage.org or at 269-469-4600 during regular business hours.

**ANNE HEYWOOD**
**VILLAGE CLERK**

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH**
**BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2025-117**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 2022-104, AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGISTRATION AND REGULATION OF RENTAL PROPERTIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC, TO INCLUDE A PROVISION PROHIBITING OUTDOOR SOUND AMPLIFICATION DEVICES.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that in accordance with Michigan law, the Grand Bach Village Council adopted Ordinance 2025-117 on December 17, 2025, at a regular meeting of the Village Council.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This Ordinance shall become effective December 31, 2025.

**KIMBERLY WOLNIK**
**VILLAGE CLERK**

# HOROSCOPE

## JANUARY 1-7, 2026

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

**ARIES** MARCH 21—APRIL 19

The year starts with some very ambitious energy coming your way. Use it to it;s fullest by tackling any problems you may have with your public image or familial responsibilities. This is the time to make things solid and well supported. So whether it's managing social media or the household, ensure it is family friendly.

**TAURUS** APRIL 20—MAY 20

The year ahead is all about learning and growing. This is the time to take your career or job opportunities to the next level by taking a class or getting involved in an apprenticeship. Perhaps it is time to expand beyond your current place and branch out to areas where you are interacting with people more.

**GEMINI** MAY 21—JUNE 21

As the new year begins the stellar energy is honing in on secret connections and behind the scenes activities. Take an honest review of the things you may inadvertently be connected with because they may ultimately affect your financial situation. Set things right now and you will be rewarded.

**CANCER** JUNE 22—JULY 22

The year starts with a stellium in your relationship sector. It is important that you realize you are never alone. Your guides and spirit family are always there encouraging you and giving you good suggestions. It is important to stay focused on your own intuition and not be distracted by other people this year.

**LEO** JULY 23—AUGUST 22

The energy coming your way this year starts with a bang in your health and wellness sector. Utilize this big flow of ambition to appropriate a time for physical movement and a solid breakfast. Once you get in the flow of your chosen activities, you will easily identify what the real bad habit is and conquer it.

**VIRGO** AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

The year ahead is all about expressing yourself and getting more involved in the creative processes of life. Embrace a more dramatic and playful response to situations. The energy is all about showing your emotions and letting people know how you really feel about things.

**LIBRA** SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

This year is full of great expectations and faith that comes from experiencing hardship in the past and having had overcome them. Stand firm in the knowledge that no matter what the year ahead holds you will conquer it. You will be blessed with a firm footing and strong resolve that will help you accomplish a lot.

**SCORPIO** OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

Using your voice and speaking up is important in the year ahead. Avoid getting caught up in group dynamics that may keep you from sharing your perspective. If you see that a plan is not going to work, say so. It's time to stand out by being honest, even if it offends people in positions of authority.

**SAGITTARIUS** NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

The year starts with some interesting investment and purchasing opportunities. A lot of stellar vibes are shining on your financial choices bringing you a lot of good luck. So, make those big ticket purchases and create a more luxurious living space as you will have a knack for finding the best deals now.

**CAPRICORN** DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

The year ahead is all about being true to yourself and doing what is best for you. This isn't to say be selfish but you need to put your air mask on first before you can help anybody else. When you do what is best for you, the people around you will ultimately benefit because you will be at your best.

**AQUARIUS** JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18

There is a lot of shadow work and personal transformation packed into the year ahead. Take this beginning week of the new year to make a personal inventory of the things that need adjustment and where you would like to be this time next year. Be honest with yourself now and the year will unfold beautifully.

**PISCES** FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

This year is all about networking and finding the right people to collaborate with. Take social media and interacting with people more seriously. Use social media as a marketing tool rather than a tool for personal validation. Take criticism constructively and make changes when it is needed.

***Happiness belongs to the self-sufficient.*** — *Aristotle*

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## Sudoku

*Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.*

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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ACROSS**

Molding
Carriage
Sister of Ares
Pillage
Iodine (pref.)
Moses death mountain
Premature (2 words)
Arabic letter
Building wing
Small anvil
Adjective-forming (suf.)
Troops
P.I. skirt
Song thrush
Relaxing of state tensions
Seed coat
Pasha
Academy (abbr.)
Stir
Macerate
Woman's work basket
38 Eth. prince
39 Presidential nickname
41 Refuse
43 Exudate plant
46 Rhine tributary
48 Turco
50 Thunderfish
51 Teacher of Samuel
52 River through Florence and Pisa
53 Fr. pronoun
54 Ancient times
55 Pair

**DOWN**

1 Bone: Gr.
2 Prison: Brit.
3 Ecology (abbr.)
4 Barely get by
5 Odyssey singer
6 Portion out
7 Epic by Homer
8 Alfonso's queen
9 Trust
10 Bird
11 Mild
16 Sweetsop
20 Knot lace
22 Temporary jungle clearing
24 Irish poet
25 Fr. month
26 Scot. alder tr
27 Inner
28 River into the North Sea
29 To (Scot.)
30 Electronic da processing (abbr.)
32 Conscript
35 Kwa languag
36 Hall (Sp.)
38 Quick
39 Berne's river
40 Semitic deity
42 False hair
43 Bloodcurdling
44 Arm bone
45 Tone
47 Gelderland c
49 Computer assisted design (abbr

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZL

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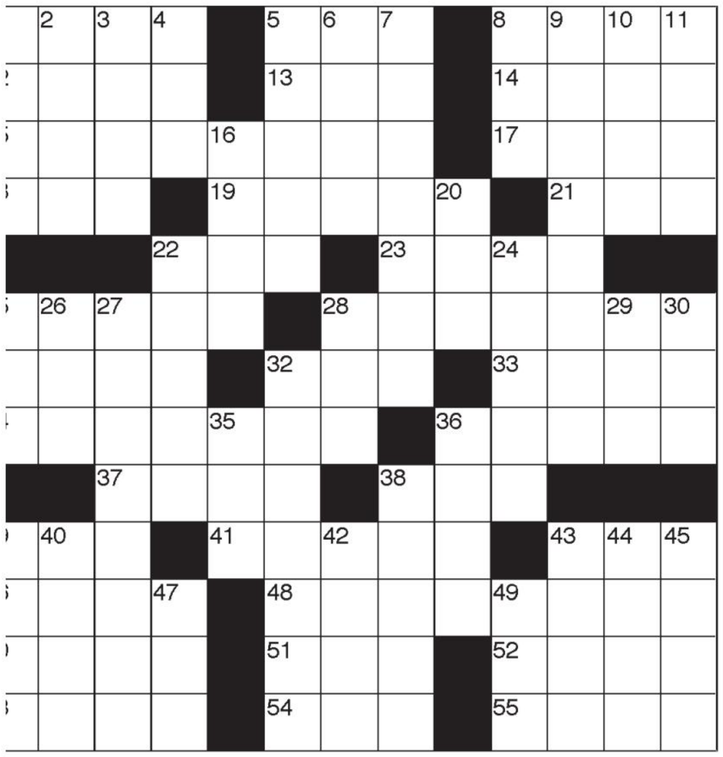

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* EPIC-MRA 2011

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# A Writer's Life...

## DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER

Another notch on my belt

On Monday morning, Ray and I delivered our last two M.A.S.K. scripts to Lori. We'd read the M.A.S.K. series bible, viewed previous episodes, written story springboards and beat outlines and then written 10 half-hour scripts...all in a blurring two weeks. It was a monumental task...a monumental achievement.

Aside from the debacle of losing an entire script and having to rewrite it overnight, the M.A.S.K. assignment had been exhilarating.

Everyone at DIC was settling into their new offices, me included. Bobby Logan was getting a jump on Popples, the series I'd be working on with him. He'd already devoured the bible and was calling potential writers. Before I could start on Popples, I had to finish editing the half dozen Heathcliff and the Catillac Catsscripts I'd put on hold while Ray and I tackled M.A.S.K. When I asked Bobby if he planned to write some Popples episodes on his own, he said, "Definitely!"

And why not? We'd be paid 15 hundred dollars for each script we wrote. This was the first time I'd have direct competition – 'direct' as in another story editor sitting in the same office with me. Oddly, I liked it; partly because we'd both been on the DIC softball team, but mostly because Bobby was a good guy. He was funny and smart and fast on his feet. It was going to be a friendly competition. And anyway, I'd already worked for Those Characters From Cleveland, who owned Popples, so I knew I'd get my fair share of script assignments.

What I didn't know was that Popples would start me on a very long and very profitable relationship with a major toy manufacturer...and it wouldn't be Those Characters From Cleveland.

A week later I was listening to John Waite's #1 megahit "Missing You" as I drove to work. I was captivated by the heartbreaking lyrics, by Waite's incredible voice and the powerful arrangement. I reflected about how year earlier I'd felt some of the same loss Waite's song was barely able to disguise as he sang about a former girlfriend after they'd broken up. But my sense of loss wasn't for a former girlfriend. It was for my having completed my work The Littles and Care Bears. They were television series, but my sense of loss was as intense as it would have been walking away from a girlfriend.

As I pulled into DIC's parking lot, I realized I'd completed two new series by the end of my first week in our new digs. I thought about how it was curious that Ididn't feel the sense of loss over Heathcliff and the Catillac Cats or M.A.S.K ending that I did with The Littles and Care Bears. I wondered if I didn't miss these new series as much because that sense of loss abated as one did more and more series. Part of me hoped that wasn't the case because I didn't want to become jaded.

After I gave Lori a hard copy of the last Heathcliff and the Catillac Cats script and a floppy they were on, Howard Cohen walked from his office as if on cue. With all his industry experience, I put the question to him, asking if he ever still felt a sense of loss after finishing a project or if he just moved on.

He nodded, getting why I was asking. He placed his pipe between his lips and said, "Don't fret. Wait a couple of days and you'll feel the pain." Then he walked away.

# To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

## HOW TO ACHIEVE BETTER HEALTH IN THE NEW YEAR

Goodbye 2025, hello 2026. Everyone is making their New Years resolutions. Let me guess, this is the year you are finally going to quit smoking, or stick to a workout routine, or wake up earlier, start a healthier diet. But then it is February, and you are back to old habits. Don't take it personally, it is human nature. We all need discipline. We have to exercise our self-discipline for any of this to work.

The number one New year's resolution is weight loss and better health. Being that my article is about health, I am going to focus on how you can make 2026 easier to achieve your health goals.

People have 'all or nothing' mentalities. That is our mindset. This is not about perfection, or 100%, it is about doing your best most of the time. If you fall off, don't stay down, get back up. Do this every time. You will begin to be in charge and self-disciplined.

First decide your true health goals. Do you need to eat healthier, exercise more, quit smoking or drinking? Maybe you just want to get organized and a healthier mental mindset.

Get realistic on where you need to make health changes and do it. To keep your goals, make a checklist. Be SPECIFIC. Instead of saying you are going to work out five days a week, get detailed. Decide each week a specific time and duration. Mark your calendar the dates and time you choose for your workouts. Stick to it most of the time. There will be true emergencies to change this workout, but don't make excuses.

Make your goals ACHIEVABLE. If you are starting a new activity, take your current abilities into account. It wouldn't be advisable to start running if you have bad knees. Start walking first. Your body will begin to heal with every movement that you do, and every healthy meal that you eat.

Be REALISTIC. If you are choosing a new diet or exercise program, don't say you are working out three hours every day, because that is not practical. Make them fit your schedule and your availability. However, keep your health a priority.

True health begins with good diet, exercise, plenty of water, good sleep, sunlight, faith and a good mindset. These are the laws of nature. Look at your life and see where you could benefit in making these laws of nature work into your life. Use your checklist that you create and this will ensure that you are sticking with it. Use your self-discipline and remind yourself that you are worth it.

Don't look at this program specifically for weight loss. As you get healthier, exercising, eating living foods andridding the processed foods, weight will just naturally come off. Prioritize healthy foods and create new healthier habits. The library is a great resource for healing diets and exercise programs. 'How not to Die' by Michael Gregor is a great book to a healthier lifestyle preventing premature illnesses.

*Disclaimer: Everything here is for nutritional education and is not meant to diagnose, treat prevent or cure. See your doctor when you have questions.*

# PET OF THE WEEK

## TWIX

**Break Twix out of the shelter. This beagle mix is a little over a year old, weighs around 25-30 pounds, is spayed with her vaccinations up-to-date. Twix prefers a quiet household, and would do best with older children. As a true beagle, her nose is always to the ground, sniffing out whatever she can. Twix may be nervous at first, but will lovingly become your favorite snack. She loves her walks, and will gladly take a treat when good. Make Twix part of your home today.**

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